VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 3 NO. 5 PRIDE FEST ISSUE JUNE-JULY 2000

WE'RE HERE, WE'RE PROUD, GET USED TO IT!

F.A.C.T. SOLSTICE DINNER

FACT, Fighting AIDS Continuously Together, invites you to attend its Summer Solstice Celebration at the Berkleigh Country Club on Sunday, June 25. This special Fund Raiser Party includes a cocktail hour with assorted hot and cold hors d'oevres, a fabulous chef prepared dinner buffet with everything from freshly carved London broil and turkey to a full service "custom" pasta station. For dessert, create your own sundae, enjoy fresh fruit and assorted baked sweets. Also included for your enjoyment will be a live auction and entertainment. Don't miss this important Pride Month chance to support FACT and have a wonderful time. Cocktails begin at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7 pm, $45 per person, dress: casual chic. For reservations and info call 610-820-5519.

VFP QUIZ BOWL

PLAY FOR YOUR FAVORITE GROUP

Do you ace those Pop Quizes on the back of the VFP each month? Well, get two friends and register for the VFP Quiz Bowl. Teams of 3 people will compete for cash prizes (donations are up to $200 top prize, $75 second prize) to be donated to the local organization of their choice. The event will be at Diamonz, Sunday July 23, at 7:30pm.

Teams must play for any one of the 501c3 organizations signed onto the Anti-Discrimination Statement (see page 8). If a team wishes to play for a local 501c3 gay-friendly organization that is not signed onto the statement, then just get them to sign on. Each team must register with VFP to play and pay a $15 registration fee (which will be donated to PA-GALA). Cover charge at Diamonz will also go to PA-GALA. To register and for more info, call VFP at 610-432-5449.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

ENIGMA PLAYERS

The Enigma Players production of, "Just Who Does She Think She Is?" which premiered on Monday night, June 12, at Theater Outlet, was another triumph for writer/producer Jerry Schmidt. After the opening musical act, "Bigger Than Boise" pumped up the crowd with jazzy/rock guitar harmonies and original songs the stage area went black and the play began. The story, which explores prejudice within our own community while it exposes the menace of "Dr. Laura" and her ilk, was thought provoking while it consistently made the audience laugh and cheer.

The cast, Jerry Schmidt, Peter Dennis, Dusty Corners, Lee Burkett, Tom Onushco, Moira Burkett, James Mulcahy and Jerry Popolis was excellent. If you missed this wonderful production, you have another chance to see the play tonight (June 17th) at Stonewall, during the post-pride party. Don't miss it.

BILL SANDERS TO LEAVE CIVIC

Civic Theatre's Artistic Director for 10 seasons Bill Sanders' final mainstage production will be the LV premiere of 'Neil Simon's Proposals.' June 2-17. Mainstage attendance for Sander's final season as artistic director has been Civic Theatre's highest in 30 years. Sanders, who directed his first community theater show in 1977, is leaving the Lehigh Valley to work as Associate Artistic Director of Rattlestick Productions in New York, a serious Off-Broadway producer of new playwrights. Break a leg Bill, we'll miss you.

PFLAG PICNIC JULY 9

PFLAG, Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, will be holding their 3rd annual picnic on Sunday, July 9, at 3:00 pm, graciously hosted by Ilse and Allen. All members of the Rainbow Community are welcome. Bring a covered dish to share, a lawn chair or blanket. Children are welcome, but please leave pets at home. For directions call the PFLAG hotline, 610-967-5219.

"FAMILY PHOTOS"

The "Love Makes a Family" photo exhibit, which has been brought to the Lehigh Valley by EQUAL! at Lucent Technologies and UUCLV, was on display last week in the windows of the Bethlehem Library and later at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. The exhibit shows images of GLBT families. A closing reception for the exhibit at UUCLV, at 3 pm on Sunday June 18 (tomorrow), will also celebrate the fantastic success of LV PrideFest 2000.

BIG 3 GIVE DP

Daimler Chrysler Corp., Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp.issued a joint announcement this month along with the United Auto Workers that they plan to offer health coverage to the same-sex domestic partners of their employees beginning August 1."Never before have we seen virtually an entire industry, along with its leading union, announce domestic partnership benefits simultaneously...By taking this step together, the Big Three have bolstered the traditional American value of equal pay for equal work, regardless of sexual orientation." said Kim I. Mills of HRC.

ADVOCATE TOUTS ALLENTOWN

The current issue of the national news magazine The Advocate (the one with k.d.lang on the cover) includes Allentown in a story about urban renewal and the role of gay and lesbian homeowners. The author of the article, Charles Yoo, interviewed VFP editors Liz Bradbury and Trish Sullivan about the city and its visible gay and lesbian population. They are mentioned and quoted in the article.

Morning Call reporter Bob Wittman included a mention of the Advocate article in his feature about the Pride Festival and related Pride events that appeared in the Friday, June 9 paper. That Friday's Morning Call also included three other articles about GLBT events, with photos!

Planet Parenthood

edited by Emily Dugan

CIVIL UNIONS & SECOND PARENT ADOPTION

What does the civil unions ruling in Vermont mean for gay and lesbian families with children? The answer is, lots. In most cases, a second parent adoption is sought when one person in a couple is either the biological parent of a child through artificial insemination, or when the first parent has legally adopted a child, and the second person in the couple seeks to also be a legal adoptive parent. In PA, there is little problem if the two people are opposite sex. Especially if they are married to each other. But with same-sex couples, legal adoption by the second parent is currently impossible. For residents of Vermont, however, civil union ceremonies automatically create parental responsibility for the second person in the couple.

So, if you need to both be the legal parents of your children, the simplest way is, move to Vermont, get a civil union ceremony and live happily ever after in Vermont eating pancakes and maple syrup.

But what if you can't move? There are more options. You don't have to be a resident of Vermont to get a civil union, but when you leave the state, it will not be recognized by other states. Get one anyway. Someday it will be recognized by other states, so you'll be set in the meantime, it is the highest legal relationship two same-sex people can get in this country. (But don't forget, this is not just a broom jumping. It can't be undone via UHaul. To end it means a legal divorce which requires a six month residency in VT and a lawyer.)

Back to the second parent adoption options. Go to Vermont short term, and establish residency, which is a minimum of 6 months. Then apply to adopt your kids. Second parent adoption in Vermont is relatively easy, according to lawyer Beth Robinson, co-counsel on the Vermont civil unions case, whom we spoke to on the phone last Tuesday. In most cases of long term relationship, nearly all Vermont judges wave home visits, and the addition to that of a civil union couldn't hurt. Will the second parent adoption be accepted if you move to another state after the six month residency in VT and the VT adoption is final? Probably. There don't seem to have been challenges to them once they are in place. Certainly people outside the actual couple, have not successfully challenged these adoptions. And these adoptions are recognized by employers for benefits.

Do you have to go to Vermont to do this? Well, Vermont seems to be particularly friendly toward same-sex adoptions. Second parent adoptions are also granted in New Jersey, but may take longer and depend more on which judge you get.

Some couples, for the protection of their children, must achieve second parent adoption. Six months away from home, is a small price to pay. If you need a lawyer in Vermont, you can call the law firm Langrock, Sperry and Wool at 802-388-6356. They are the ones that handled the original civil union case.

FILM FEST COMMITTEE THANKS VOLUNTEERS

The Film Festival Comittee Chair Chris Boes and the Film Committee wish to thank: Mulhenberg College, Lehigh University, Cedar Crest College, Moravian College, and Northampton Community College and the following people who helped an contributed to the FilmFEST in one way or another: The Lehigh Valley Pride Board and Committee members, Allyson Hamm, Liz Bradbury and Trish Sullivan from Valley Free Press and PA-GALA, Ilse Stoll from PFLAG and EQUAL, DJ Golda, Ed Roth, John Early, Micki Katz, Richard Begbie, Marilyn Roberts, Michael Carbone and Patrice DiQuinzio from Muhlenberg College, Alex Doty from Lehigh University, Lauren Dorosh and Glenn Gerchman from Cedar Crest College, Robert Windolph, Sandy Fluck, and Carol Mueller from Moravian College, Steve Libby, Kate Scuffle and George Miller from Theatre Outlet, Varin Ayala, Renae Bennett.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise,

I am interested in buying IPO stocks online. What are your thoughts? From: **Stock Trader**

Dear **Stock Trader,**

One investment area that always seems to be sizzling is the market for initial public offerings (IPO). Almost daily, there is a news report of an internet, medical device or technology offering whose stock price doubled or tripled shortly after shares began trading on the market. In addition to making them sound like a fast way to make big profits, news reports also make them seem like safe, sure investments.

The fact is, not all IPO's live up to their perceived reputations and the ones that do take off usually aren't available to the average investor.

What are IPO's? An initial public offering is, as its name implies, the first sale of a company's stock to the public.A company's private owners generally undertake such a sale to raise capital for operations, expansion or some other business purpose.

Here's how the process works: Each IPO is managed by one or more large brokerage firms, called underwriters. The underwriters help the company prepare for the offering and prospectus required by the federal and state securities agencies. They also create a selling group, called a syndicate, which will help sell the issue. Thes groups works together to determine the stock's initial offering size and price.

Once preliminary prospectuses have been provided to potential investors, the underwriter and syndicate sell the stock in the "primary market." Participants include institutional investors such as pension funds, mutual funds and favored individual investors, who have a high net worth or are regular IPO investors. In the past, the average individual hasn't had access to these offerings. However, this is evolving as the internet and online brokerages are beginning to change the way the process works.

As soon as the offering is completed, primary investors are free to sell the stock on the open or secondary market. This is where the average investor often gets into the action. If the stock is perceived as a hot offering, investors may bid its price dramatically higher. But succumbing to the frenzy can often burn long-term buy and hold investors, as hot IPO's flame out months later when business realities set in.

What to watch out for? The best way to avoid the risk of getting burned by an IPO is to proceed with caution and have realistic expectations. Because the company may be young, unproven or privately held, you may not have access to much information other than the prospectus. What's more, shares of smaller companies are more volatile.

When pursuing IPO's, research the company. Look for risk factors, selling stockholders and valuation clues. Before buying an IPO stock, consider consulting a knowledgeable financial advisor. Such a professional can help you find out more about the offering or perhaps point out other, more appropriate investments for your financial goals.

ACCO TO APPEAR AT MUSIKFEST

Come join ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, at Musikfest. ACCO will be performing a Vespers Concert on August 10 at 5pm, at the Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem. For more information please contact Beverly Morgan, Choral Director, at 610-760-1759.

HOT NEWS

GLOSS EVENTS

GLOSS, Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, announces it summer sports schedule: Racquetball - Tuesdays and Saturdays; Tennis - Sundays; Volleyball - Tuesdays - 6:30 - (Thursdays - beginning July 19). For location and directions check the web site <http://www.gloss.org>.

WDIY PRIDE RADIO SHOWS

Don't miss radio personality Audrey Kopeky's special Pride Programs on her show 'Assorted Women,' on WDIY Radio tonight (June 17) at 7:30 pm (88.1 fm on your dial for Allentown and Bethlehem and 93.9 fm for Easton and Phillipsburg). She interviews members of the Pride Board and plays the music of some of the Pride Performers. On June 24 at 7:30 pm, Audrey will present "Pride and Power" a program produced by WHYY in Philadelphia featuring the Millennium March and the Philly Pride Parade.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Women's Softball at Hackett's Field in Easton is in "full swing." Actually start times vary but all games are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights throughout the summer. To check times and get further information call Diamonz at 610-435-1028.

READING THEATER PRODUCTION CONSIDERS HATE CRIME

"BRICKS," a workshop production by Susan E. Sneeringer, takes place in the fallout, literally and figuratively, of a wave of hate crimes in a rural American setting. It opens in darkness, with the sound of bricks crashing through the storefront of Kelly's Royal Gas & Auto Repair. Kelly has built up the business from scratch over the period of a decade or so while raising a younger sister, after the death of their mother. She is closeted but harassment begins when a few locals discover her orientation. The play proceeds to examine the impact of those two bricks on each character in the play, including one who may have participated in the crime.

Workshop performances on August 4 and 5 at 8 pm and on Sunday August 6 at 2 pm will be followed by audience talkback sessions. The Playhouse for Reading Community Players is located at 11th and Buttonwood Streets in Reading. Call the Theatre at 610-375-9106 for more information or directions.

VFP IS 2!

VFP celebrates its second year birthday and its 25th issue with this paper.

We are very proud that the paper has been so well received. We produce at least 1000 issues a month and nearly all of them are read. We're happy to report that many organizations feel their membership or events attendance has increased due to VFP articles. In the next few months we will be doing some reader's surveys to determine how better to serve the community with VFP information.

If you'd like to help produce the VFP, we need people to: 1. Gather and send us information. 2. Write articles (especially for Planet Parenthood), 3. Help us deliver the papers,(especially the Easton area).

We'd like to thank some of the people who help us get this paper out every month; Janice in the print center at Office Max, all the people in the Bulk Mail Department of Lehigh Valley Post Office, especially Al Heydt; the columnists: Denise McKelvey, William Fetterman,Travis Simmons, and everyone who has written for Planet Parenthood. Steve Black for all he does. Don Kohn for rescuing us when the computer doesn't work. All the people who send us information every month. A big thanks to Vita Lucid, who proofreads this stuff even when we bring it to her in the middle of the night and say we need it by morning. We couldn't do it without you.

MICHAEL ANGELO'S CAFE OPENS IN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Michael Angelo's Cafe located on 10th Street (across from the Stonewall) is a new quiet late night (8:00 pm -3:00 am) non-smoking cafe. A place to meet before going to the clubs or after the theater. Stop in for an espresso and dessert and tell your friends about this great alternative night spot that's new to the GLBT community.

PA-GALA thanks Michael Angelo's for support of the recent fund raiser at Stonewall.

GLORA & OUT AND ABOUT

GLORA, The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, and Out and About, a Lancaster Men's Social Group, is co-sponsoring a picnic on Sunday July 23 beginning at 1 pm. There is a large lake for swimming and a covered pavilion with picnic tables, lavatories, running water, charcoal grills, etc. Everyone pleasebring a covered dish and a 2 liter bottle of their favorite soft drink. To join GLORA or for more information contact GLORA <GLORAinPA@aol.com>.

BARNES & NOBLE G&L BOOK CLUB

The Whitehall Barnes & Noble Gay and Lesbian Bookclub's next meeting is June 20. The discussion will be on May Sarton's, "The Education of Harriet Hatfield." The July 18 discussion will be on, "Happy Endings Are All Alike," by Sandra Scoppettore. Meetings begin at 7pm.

MCC SERVICES

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, (610) 954-7775, E-mail: <mcc@starplace.com> Website: http://mcc.starplace.com> Worshiping at 5:50 p.m. Sundays. **Upcoming events include**: **Pride Service-** June 18, 5:50pm Front Porches and Back Decks Sanctuary, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. **Special Guest Preacher Roberta Kreider-**, Author, "From Wounded Hearts: Faith Stories of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered People and Those Who Love Them" July 2, 5:50pm Sanctuary, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. **Developing Spiritual Maturity in an Immature World-** Three-part Christian Ed. series July 16, July 23, July 30 - 4:00pm Community Room, 424 Center St., Bethlehem Prayer and Poetry- August 20 4:00pm Community Room, 424 Center St., Bethlehem **Pet Blessing** September 17, **Courage-** Five-part Christian Ed. series September-October.

"THROUGH A LAVENDER LENS" DRAWS CHEERS

Steve Libby's documentary, 'Through a Lavender Lens: Gay and Lesbian Life in the Lehigh Valley,' premiered last Friday night as the finale to the Pride College Film Festival. With interviews and major GLBT community events over the last two years, Steve, with an extraordinary amount of help from interviewer Ann Daves, and back-up interviewer Amber, was able to capture the wide range of personalities, emotions, and historical moments that reflect the diversity and the similarity of the many segments of our community.

The film drew tears, anger, pride and extensive bouts of laughter from the crowd of over 120 people, packed into KIVA Theater at Northampton Community College. Luckily, for those not able to attend, Steve plans to show the film again soon in a local venue.

REAL ESTATE?

Don't forget that Remax Real Estate Agent Gail Hoover will graciously contribute $100 to PA-GALA when a client mentions this VFP article. So whether you're buying or selling. Call Gail at 610-791-4400. and mention PA-GALA and VFP.

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay &Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.
Bowling- Monday Nights, Mountainville Lanes, 610-691-8303
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
Enigma Players 610-432-0706
EQUAL! at Lucent Technologies 610.712.5532
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GMBG- Gay Men's Buddist Group- Meditation and discussion, 610-776-1768
GLEE at Air Products
GLASS- at Lehigh Univ. Every other Thursday 6pm, 2nd fl. Lamberton Hall, 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email- GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball,. Tennis, Racquet Ball . 610.434.2966.
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.820.0977.
Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642
KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, steveo@early.com
MS - Moravian Sanctuary, PO Box 5053, Bethlehem, PA 10815.
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, office-424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775
NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday fron 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge),, College Center call 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
NEPATA-NorthEast PA Transgender Assoc see Renaissance
NCFM- New Covenant Family Ministries, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery, 610-791-0716 /740-3097, email NCFM98@aol.com
Out There- At Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying) 1st Tuesdays, Monthly P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449
PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm 610.967.5219
Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival - In July ... 215.790.1510.
Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>,<www.pridelv.org>

JUNE 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GLOSS RAA ACCO	2 KS	3 WDIY GLOSS
4	5 FILM AT MUHLENBERG	6 FILM AT LEHIGH	7 FILM AT CEDAR CREST	8 FILM AT MORAVIAN	9 FILM AT NCC	10 GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT
11 PFLAG PRIDE PARENTS MCC PRIDE SERVICE	12 ENIGMA PLAYERS	13 PA-GALA EVENT AT STONEWALL	14 PRIDE FILM FEST NIGHT	15	16	17 PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE
18 MCC PRIDE SERVICE PHOTO RECEPTION	19 RAA Bowling	20 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH B&N	21 T.O.	22 ACCO GLOSS RAA	23 KS	24 GLOSS WDIY
25 FACT SUMMER SOLSTICE DINNER	26 RAA Bowling	27 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	28	29 ACCO RAA GLOSS	30 KS	GLOSS WDIY

JULY 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WDIY GLOSS
2 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	3 INTEGRITY RAA Bowling	4 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	5	6 RAA GLOSS ACCO	7 KS	8 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
9 PFLAG PICNIC MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	10 RAA Bowling	11 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	12	13 RAA GLOSS ACCO	14 KS	15 WDIY GLOSS
16 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	17 RAA Bowling	18 B&N GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	19	20 RAA GLOSS ACCO	21 KS	22 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
23 VFP QUIZ BOWL MCC GLORA PICNIC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	24 RAA Bowling	25 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	26	27 RAA GLOSS ACCO	28 KS	29 WDIY GLOSS

AUGUST 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	2	3 RAA GLOSS ACCO	4 KS	5 WDIY GLOSS
6 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	7 INTEGRITY RAA Bowling	8 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	9	10 ACCO CONCERT RAA GLOSS	11 KS	12 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
13 PFLAG MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	14 RAA Bowling	15 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	16	17 RAA GLOSS ACCO	18 KS	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	21 RAA Bowling	22 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	23	24 RAA GLOSS ACCO	25 k.d. lang STATE THEATER KS	26 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
27 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	28 RAA Bowling	29 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	30	31 RAA GLOSS ACCO		

BY VOLUNTEERS WHO DEDICATE THEIR TIME TO OUR COMMUNITY. EBRATES THESE WONDERFUL SOURCES OF LOCAL PRIDE

ACCO♀

ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, has een bringing women's music to the Lehigh alley community for over seven years. The iission of this (501c3) organization is to ducate the entire community about the normous and often forgotten contribution omen have made to the world of music and ong throughout history and across all ultures.

Under the leadership of musical director everly Morgan, ACCO has performed: with ie Anna Cruses Chorus in Philadelphia, at lusikfest, as part of the First Night elebration in Bethlehem, with internationally nown composers, including Ysaye Barnwell f Sweet Honey in the Rock. ACCO has articipated in educational programs with undreds of children's groups, and has ommissioned and performed works omposed for the ACCO chorus. If you are a oman interested in auditioning to be part of ie ACCO Chorus, why not catch ACCO's lusikfest performance on August 10 and ien call ACCO (610-760-1759) in the last eek of August to audition.

Don't sing, but still want to be part of ACCO? you have experience in not-for-profit evelopment or organization perhaps you ay be right for ACCO's Board of Directors. r if you are interested in helping ACCO rganize a concert, or could help with a ailing or usher at a performance, call ACCO t 610-760-1759.

UUCLV

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the ehigh Valley has a 100+ year history of lerance of diversity. UUCLV, which has just fficially become a "welcoming congregation" to GLBT people) has a long Lehigh Valley istory as a place where the GLBT ommunity is welcome. Many local groups, nentioned in this paper meet in the UUCLV hurch at 424 Center St. in Bethlehem.

UUCLV is also well known for its activism in ro-environment, pro-civil rights and nulticultural causes. Those who seek a piritual environment that may or may not be rounded in traditional religion, but ncourages exploration and a quest for nderstanding, may find UUCLV the perfect piritual home. To contact UUCLV call: 610-66-7652.

MCCLV

MCCLV began in the Lehigh Valley in 1984. Our mission is to be a Christ-centered, community church sharing God's love and grace with all people through worship, fellowship and service. We welcome ALL people and offer an affirming outreach to the Lehigh Valley gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

We worship every Sunday at 5:50 p.m. at 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley is a member congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), which was founded in 1968 in Los Angeles by Rev. Troy Perry

UFMCC puts its faith into action by creating a global community of healing and reconciliation and by confronting the injustices of homophobia, sexism, racism and poverty through Christian social justice. Since its founding, UFMCC has grown into a denomination of approximately 300 churches in 18 countries around the globe. Worldwide membership surpassed 32,000 in the mid-1990s.

To contact MCCLV : (610) 954-7775, E-mail: <mcc@starplace.com>, Website: http://mcc.starplace.com

PFLAG

PFLAG LV, Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays of the Lehigh Valley, was originally formed to help parents deal positively with their gay and lesbian children. PFLAG is a national organization with branches throughout America. It works to promote and protect the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community with a 3 part mission: advocacy, support, and education.

The Lehigh Valley Chapter was started over six years ago, and meets monthly at an area college. PFLAGLV has participated in a variety of GLBT supportive and educational events. It sponsors a lending library, supports GLBT youth in area schools, and has organized educational forums on coming out, and the transgender community. To contact Lehigh Valley PFLAG, call 610-967-5449.

ERRORS?...OOPS

VFP apologizes for the misspellings in last month's issue. Our crackerjack proofreader and sometimes undercover reporter, Vita Lucid was covering West Coast stories.

LVGMC

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus began in 1994 and has been going sweet and strong ever since. This (501c3) group has performed with Diva Marilyn Horn, won "Best Musical Group" at the Philadelphia Pride Parade and has performed numerous concerts in and outside the Lehigh Valley. LVGMC is proud to have debuted several important pieces including just last week, J.A. Kawarsky's, "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me." LVGMC is currently busy on the release of their first professional CD.

Part of LVGMC's mission statement includes: "Our mission is not only to entertain, but to be a supportive environment for gays and lesbians and be a conduit to initiate discussion and understanding."

The chorus is open to all persons, tenor or bass voiced, who are gay or lesbian or who are respectful of gay and lesbian issues. LVGMC also welcomes the participation of non-singing volunteers to help with the production of events. To contact LVGMC call 610-366-3320 or email <steveo@early.com>.

F.A.C.T.

FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER

FACT, Fighting AIDS Continuously Together, a volunteer run (501c3) organization dedicated to supporting the Lehigh Valley HIV/AIDS community. FACT raises money to distribute to local agencies and individuals who deal daily with the AIDS epidemic. This year, FACT will organize and present the 15th Annual FACT Summer Games at Rainbow MT. FACT's other events include the annual Snow Ball in December, the Summer Solstice dinner in June, and other events throughout the year. FACT was honored by the City of Allentown as a recipient of the 1999 Human Relations Award.

Besides the support FACT provides to those affected and effected by HIV/AIDS, FACT volunteers want the community to remember that the epidemic is not over. To become a member, volunteer, or contributor to FACT, or to get further information contact the FACT Hotline at 610-820-5519.

E FRIENDS, SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

VALLEY FREE PRESS REPO

MARTINA STOPPED
FOR SEVERAL SNAPS

LAURA DERN
BACKS UP ELLEN

MELISSA AND JULIE
ALSO LEADERS OF THE MARCH

VFP ACE PHOTO JOURNALIST STEVE LIBBY TOOK THESE PICTURES AT THE MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON, LAST MONTH.

(AT ONE POINT ELLEN ACTUALLY BUMPED INTO HIM, NOW ARE YOU SORRY YOU DIDN'T GO?)

IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE REST OF STEVE'S INCREDIBLE PICTURES

(AND BELIEVE US,, THEY'VE DRAWN WOWS FROM THE MOST JADED OF THE COMMUNITY)

STOP BY THE PA-GALA BOOTH DURING THE PRIDE FESTIVAL.

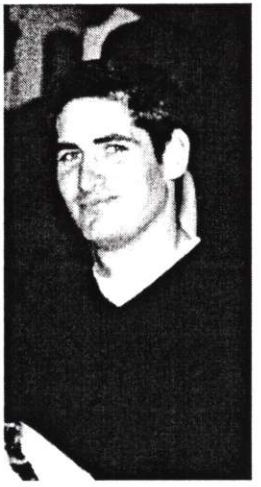
CTER GOES TO THE MARCH

EN & BETTY DEGENERES, ANNE HECHE,
DELY FISHER HELP LEAD THE MARCH

50,000 PEOPLE CHEER AT
EQUITY ROCKS

SHEPARD

REV. BETH GOUDY AND MCC
LEHIGH VALLEY MARCHERS



N.J. EAGLE SCOUT
JAMES DALE

"MY SO CALLED LIFE"
STAR, WILSON CRUZ

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MOST LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS PAPER ARE RUN VFP THANKS THEM FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS, AND C

GLOSS

GLOSS, The Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society is an all volunteer group that offers you a variety of sports and activities. GLOSS was started in 1991 as a volleyball group known as The Velvet Spikers. Tennis and racquetball were added later.

The volleyball group has participated in tournaments at regional and national levels and achieved respectable results. The tennis group sponsors a yearly trip to the U.S. Open in NYC.

In the summer, racquetball, tennis and volleyball take place on a weekly basis. Anyone interested in joining in, is encouraged to attend regardless of their level of ability. In addition to the sporting activities, members get together to play board games on a monthly basis during the fall, winter and spring. The important thing is to enjoy the company of other GLBT people and have fun.

To join GLOSS, call the hotline at 610-434-2966 or email: fabio@early.com. You can also visit their web site at www.gloss.org. To lead a new sport, contact GLOSS. The group will advertise the activity through the hotline, web site, and electronic newsletter.

KINDRED SPIRITS

Kindred Spirits is a support , discussion, and social group for lesbian and bisexual women. The group meets weekly on Friday evenings at 6:30 pm in the UUCLV building at 424 Center Street in Bethlehem. Occasionally the group participates in outside events during the meeting times, so if you are interested in joining them, call to check location and time. Call Chris at 610-868-0248.

GAY MEN LV

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley is a social group that meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 7 pm at 424 Center St. in the UUCLV building. The meetings often feature movies, refreshments, or group attendance at outside events. The next meeting, scheduled for June 24, will be a game night. Bring your favorite board game. A donation of $1 is requested to cover the meeting costs. GMLV is supported by the Metropolitan Church of the Lehigh Valley. To get more information email <gaymenlv@hotmail.com> or call 610-820-0977.

GLORA

GLORA, The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Allentown and Reading, is a social group for GLBT men and women, which started in 1989. The group is dedicated to organizing fun and healthy social events, like potluck suppers, movie nights, hikes, bowling, mini-golf and other events suggested by members. There are usually at least two events each month and these are usually attended by 15 to 20 people (especially the potlucks). GLORA membership now exceeds 100 people, and includes people from all over the Lehigh Valley and Reading areas. Many events are family events that include kids. To find out more about GLORA, write to P.O. Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105-1952, or email <GLORAinPA@aol.com>.

EQUAL!, GLEE, AND GLISTN

There are several organizations within major Lehigh Valley corporations that promote and support the equal rights of their Gay and Lesbian employees and that support the Lehigh Valley GLBT community at large. Among them are EQUAL! at Lucent Technologies, GLEE (Gay and Lesbian Empowered Employees) at Air Products, and GLISN at Dun and Bradstreet.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is an organization for GLBT Episcopalians (Anglicans) and their friends and meets the first Monday of each month in the upstairs chapel of Trinity Episcopal Church (44 East Market Street--Bethlehem). There is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist with discussion around scripture as it relates to gay Christians. Absolutely everyone is welcome! For more information (or directions) call Dixie at 610-758-8642 or Scott at 610-691-8303.

RENAISSANCE

Renaissance is an educational (501c3) and support organization for people in the transgender community. To get more information or to find out about the organization's local monthly meetings, write P.O. Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18016, call 610-821-2955, or email <renlv@ren.org>.

PA-GALA IS 3

PA-GALA, The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, is jus three years old, but this volunteer (501c4 organization is now the largest gay and lesbian voter information and lobbying group in the state. With nearly 800 paid members and a comprehensive mailing lis of nearly 40,000 people state-wide including 3500 in the greater Lehigh Valley PA-GALA has become one of the mos important GLBT organizations in Pennsylvania.

Amazingly, PA-GALA, does it all on a budget built from $20 memberships and small Rainbow Team contributions, few in excess of $50. PA-GALA can receive no grants or corporate funding.

When the Hate Crimes Bill begins to move PA-GALA is there lobbying for its passage When the Mayor of Allentown tries to remove civil rights from police and fire fighters, PA-GALA is there stopping the action. Whether a candidate runs for local school board or US Senator, PA-GALA is there, finding out if they'll defend your rights and in some cases, whether they've lied about their support. PA-GALA gets this information to voters in the GLBT community through direct mail of the candidate guide "Gay and Lesbian Vote."

PA-GALA is the only organization lobbying for GLBT rights in the Lehigh Valley and the only one that mails you the voter information you need. Please vote, and become a PA GALA member. Ask yourself how much are your rights and the rights of your friends and family worth? Then ask yourself if you're supporting the one grassroots group that' fighting for those rights? (Lehigh Valley members of PA-GALA receive a subscription to this newspaper. You can join now at this festival, at the PA-GALA booth.)

PA-GALA LV would like to thank all the people who support us; the members, and rainbow team. And also, Gail Eric the Quarkmaster, everyone who has donated stuff for the garage sale fund raiser, other groups who have done fund raisers for us the William Way Center, Janice in the print center at Office Max and the Bulk Mail Department of Lehigh Valley Post Office especially Al Heydt. Thanks, we couldn't do it without you!!!

GET INVOLVED, JOIN, CARE, CONTRIBUTE, VOLUNTEER, ENJOY, MA

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Atown
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016 610- 821- 2955 renlv @ ren.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
SC- Susquehanna Camping Club- 503 General Sutter Ave. Lititz, PA 17543, www.paonline.com/outdoors
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out (sponsored by Equal at Lucent) 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT @ VYH TEEN GROUP-EVERY TUESDAY
BOWLING AT MOUNTAINVILLE LANES EVERY MONDAY
GLOSS
RACQUETBALL -TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS
TENNIS - SUNDAYS
VOLLEYBALL - TUESDAYS (& THURSDAYS IN JULY)
"NEIL SIMONS PROPOSALS" CIVIC THEATER - JUNE 2 - 25
"R.U.R." - THEATER OUTLET - JUNE 8 - 25
"TOO MUCH LIGHT MAKES THE BABY GO BLIND" THEATER OUTLET 2ND STAGE - JUNE 8 - 25
PRIDE PARTY DIAMONZ - JUNE 17
ENIGMA PLAYERS AT STONEWALL - JUNE 17
WDIY RADIO SHOW - JUNE 17
"LOVE MAKES A FAMILY PHOTO EXHIBIT" CLOSING RECEPTION -UUCLV - JUNE 18
PRIDE SERVICE - MCC - JUNE 18
BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK CLUB - JUNE 20
WDIY RADIO SHOW - JUNE 24
FACT SOLSTICE DINNER - JUNE 25
MCC GUEST: ROBERTA KREIDER - JULY 2
PFLAG PICNIC JULY - 9
BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK CLUB - JULY 18
VALLEY FREE PRESS QUIZ BOWL AT DIAMONZ - JULY 23
GLORA PICNIC W/ OUT AND ABOUT - JULY 23
"BRICKS" AT READING COMMUNITY THEATER AUGUST 4,5,6
ACCO AT MUSIKFEST - AUGUST 10
K D LANG AT STATE THEATER - AUGUST 25

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE WILL PUBLISH ARTICLES ABOUT NOT-FOR-PROFIT LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE OF SERVICE OR INTEREST TO THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY.
VFP - 610-432-5449
EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

ACT PROUD AND MAKE LEMONADE

BY PATRICIA SULLIVAN

We all know the adage "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Well, I for one am really proud of all the sweet refreshing lemonade being served up in the Lehigh Valley during Pride month. Over twenty-five special events to celebrate our community's Pride have been presented this year. Representatives from many diverse groups came together under the banner of Pride to make this the best Pride Festival the Valley has seen.

The most recent Advocate magazine ranks the friendliness of states when it comes to equal rights (sodomy laws, marriage bans, hate-crimes laws, and employment protection) for gay men and lesbians. Pennsylvania ranks 4th on a scale of 1 to 5, with five being the worst rating. Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton still have no protection for employment, housing or public accommodation based on sexual orientation, but has that stopped the lemonade from flowing? No! Gay men and lesbians by the thousands are making Allentown and the other major cities in the Lehigh Valley a better place to live. When you look at the mix of cities highlighted in this month's Advocate, you realize what goes on in a city is more contingent upon the commitment and activism among its residents, than upon its legal protections. I am proud to live in a community where gay men and lesbians act proud. Yes, ACT PROUD.

During a discussion following one of the College Week Pride Festival films the need for positive role models came up. At issue was the need for strong positive community based role models for gay and lesbian youth. Here in the Lehigh Valley we have many out, proud and positive gay men and lesbians who reflect a wide spectrum of successes in life. In just a few moments Liz and I were able to list over fifty gay men and lesbians in the Valley who are so "out" they do not hestitate to speak or appear publically, in support of rights. If you have trouble believing that, just go see Through a Lavendar Lens, Steve Libby's documentary about life in the Lehigh Valley.

Though you may not realize it, there is probably someone out there that looks to you as a role model, as a person they admire and seek to emulate. It could be for your sense of humor or empathy, your business or professional skills, or just the way you "strut your stuff." Let's all resolve to live our lives so that the youth in our community will feel better about themselves because in us they see hope and a view of a bright future.

If you can't be out, ACT PROUD and Make Lemonade. Not being out doesn't let you off the hook to do your part to speak up against hate language and to be fair minded and supportive of civil rights and equality for all. As a matter of fact, some of the most outspoken people working for rights in our own community aren't even gay or lesbian.

What scares the far right the most is that the public is beginning to realise that gay men and lesbians are basically , just plain folks. They want us to be afraid to speak out and participate in society at large. You may be in the closet as a gay man or lesbian, but you can no longer afford to be in the closet when it come to stopping hate language and supporting equal civil rights to include actual or perceived sexual orientation. The road to our civil rights is paved by individuals who are out there, proud of themselves and their families, and working as members of a larger community to make our cities and neighborhoods better places for everyone.

COLLEGE PRIDE FILM FEST UNEQUALED IN LV HISTORY

Five different colleges, five nights in a row, there had never been an event like this in the Lehigh Valley. Add that all the films had GLBT themes, and that hundreds of people attended, it was unprecedented.

Funny movies, thrillers, sad ones, ones that educated us, were shown at Muhlenberg, Lehigh, Cedar Crest, Moravian and NCC last week. Film discussions after the movies were lively, thought provoking and fun. And Steve Libby's documentary was great (see p. 3).

Even the fact that the $2 door donation and candy bar sales covered the festival cost, was a testament to the enormous success of this multi night Pride festival event. VFP press time was before the main Film Fest event, but it will surely be a success as well. Congratulations to Committee Chair Chris Boes, Event Coordinator Bridgette, and the entire Pride Film Committee.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

What would you do if you were diagnosed with breast cancer? Lesbians who have not given birth and breast fed, have increased levels of estrogen over a life time which increases the risk for breast cancer. BREAST CANCER THRIVERS (BCT) is a non-profit educational benefit organization dedicated to promoting the highest standards of health care for persons diagnosed with breast cancer. BCT is especially concerned with minority populations including, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and those who can not afford health care. BCT provides a variety of educational, informational, and emotional support. More on this organization will appear in next months issue of VFP.

Sherry Lawson RN, LSW, MSW, Founder and Executive Director of BCT is also a breast cancer survivor. Breast Cancer Thrivers is located at 1636 Washington Street & 17th St. in Easton. For information call 610-559-1515.

Dear WTA, I just got an email that says New York State has passed its Hate Crimes Bill that includes sexual orientation. Maybe this is rhetorical but, "What can we learn from NY State?"
Signed, **Waiting in PA**

Dear Waiting,
Good question! NY State worked for their Hate Crimes Bill for eleven years before it passed. Activists in PA, have been working on the passage of our State Hate Crimes Bill for ten years. PA's Hate Crimes Bill may actually have enough votes to pass in the legislature, but conservative Senators are keeping it from a vote by refusing to allow its introduction. Your question about what can we learn from NY State isn't just rhetorical We can learn a lot: That we all must work at the grassroots level to lobby our State Legislators; that when we can't change the anti-gay stand of our elected representatives, we must vote them out of office, and vote in pro-rights candidates. And most importantly, we must also no longer accept the political ambivalence of our families and friends- we need those who say they love us and care for us, to vote for candidates who vow to support our rights.

Dear WTA,
I have only been in the area for a few years but I just haven't met any gay or lesbian people. Where can I find supportive friends?
Signed Lonely

Dear Lonely,
At the risk of sounding like a critical talk show host, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, ARE YOU LIVING IN A CAVE??? You are writing to VFP, so you must have seen the last issue, their were 25 major Pride events in the Lehigh Valley for the GLBT community IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS!!! Did you actually go to any of them? Did you try to volunteer? Have you gone to GLOSS, GLORA, Gay Men's Chorus, MCC, GMLV, ACCO? These groups knock themselves out to create a terrific feeling of community. Are you at this very Pride festival? Geez, look around, there are hundreds of GLBT people within your line of vision. Let's face it, if you are expecting people to come to your house and exclaim "hi, want to be best friends?" then that's why you haven't met anyone. You need to think about why you haven't actually sought friends. Coming out doesn't just mean from the closet, you have to walk though the livingroom and out the front door too.

THEATER OUTLET PRESENTS R.U.R.

The Lehigh Valley premiere of Czechoslovakian writer Karel Capek's 1921 sci-fi classic **R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)**, directed by Artistic Director George Miller, runs June 8-June 25 with Post Play Talkbacks after Saturday performances and a Gala Opening Night Reception following the show's opening on June 8. **R.U.R.** is set in a not-to-distant future where all work is done by robots and mankind lives only to protect itself...until the robots become more human than we, and rise up in revolt. **R.U.R.** is wise, witty, and prophetic. Tickets are $14 adult, $7 student/senior, and all tickets are $7 on Thursdays.

Back by popular demand at Theatre Outlet's Second Stage is **Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind.** A refreshing rollercoaster ride of comedy, satire, love, politics and cats at breakneck speed. Special late-night cabaret begins at 10pm. BYOB and admission is $4 & the-roll-of-the-dice (up to $10).

For more info <www.theatreoutlet.org>. For reservations 610-820-9270 or <theatreo@aol.com>.

ANOTHER VIEW
BY WILLIAM FETTERMAN

BEING A FRIEND OF DOROTHY

For so many gay men and lesbians, there is no more precious a place as the Land of Oz. There are so many ways that we can be there. My hairstylist, for instance, has assembled an extraordinary collection of movie memorabilia. Others collect rare early editions of the Oz novels. More than one person in our gay and lesbian community has told me that the Land of Oz is their understanding of what Heaven is like. I don't know about that, but I can say that I've learned more about honest spirituality by visiting the Land of Oz than attending church.

It all started with the 1900 publication of L. Frank Baum's novel The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, with illustrations by W.W. Denslow. The popularity of this work (I'd argue it to be "the great American novel") spawned further Oz books by Baum (with John R. Neill as illustrator); as well as stage productions, and silent films. After Baum's death in 1919, books written by Ruth Plumly Thompson, John R. Neill, and Jack Snow continued further adventures in Oz for some three decades. Facsimile first editions of these wonderful books have been reissued in recent years, giving Oz-lovers the opportunity to rediscover this wondrous land in its original presentation. (If you have never read any of the actual Oz novels, please treat yourself to this delightful experience.)

Oz was a popular inspiration for stage musicals, silent films and later adaptations on radio and television (including made-for-TV cartoons). But it is the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz which we all know and love. Beginning in 1956, the annual television broadcasts of this film, and the more recent availability on home video or DVD, have made this an integral part of our lives. I first remember seeing the movie when I was four years old. I was 20 when I finally read the book. The book makes me think; but the film makes me feel.

What is it about Oz, and especially the 1939 film version, that has touched so many gay men and lesbians? Gay identification with Oz didn't just begin with the TV-generation. The slang code for American servicemen during WWII, for being gay was being a "Friend of Dorothy." And that's a beautiful thing. To be a Friend of Dorothy requires more than just having some brains, heart, and courage. It is a personal identification with integrity, humility, honesty, and awareness. It is connected, spontaneous, vulnerable, strong, precious, and alive. It means being happy, joyous, and free. Yes, being a Friend of Dorothy myself, I never realized as a little boy, just how ennobling and empowering that really is!

When I watch the Wizard of Oz now as a "grown-up," it unlocks the little boy still inside me. Some of those original feelings and impressions from four years old remain alive today. I still get goosebumps every time Miss Gulch turns into the Wicked Witch. I still have a crush on the Lollipop Guild. For most of my life I've focused on the Scarecrow, knowing all too well why Dorothy tells him she will miss him most of all just before she returns to Kansas. It was only three years ago I came to notice how central Toto really is, for without Dorothy's love and devotion to him, the chain of events which got her to Oz (and back home again) might never have happened.

Most recently, it is Dorothy herself that has become my focus. Dorothy's innocence and freshness, her tenderness and wonderment, her steadfast longing and desire, are just some of the qualities I've come to cherish about her. Knowing her has brought me many tears; but also far more joy than I could ever have imagined. I'm grateful to be one of your friends Dorothy; and I hope to never take that for granted.

GET VALLEY FREE PRESS MAILED TO YOU EACH MONTH BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF PA-GALA

A VIEW FROM A DYKE
BY LIZ BRADBURY

What's in a name?

Long ago, when I lived in Western New York State, I was watching the TV news out of Buffalo when they cut to a generic blond newswoman with a mike, standing in front of a theater marquee. Up in lights was the name of Choreographer / Director Tommy Tune's latest musical and there was the fabulous Tommy himself, all six foot eight of him, ready to tout his show. The very first thing the interviewer said to him, in her perky on-camera voice was, "So, how are you enjoying the Queen City?" Tommy, now on camera, paused slightly, then said,"You call it the Queen City, well...that's marvelous!" And then, through the rest of the interview, he was hysterically and uncontrollably laughing to the complete bewilderment of the newsperson, who knew that Buffalo was the second biggest city in NY State but couldn't guess why that was funny. I figure at least ten percent of the rest of the TV audience was also laughing with Tommy, I sure was.

In the GLBT community, we have "flags" to let us know who and where we are. If you look at every logo for every local group, you'll see a triangle or a rainbow (or both) or maybe a double women's symbol, or a lambda, or the actual words for those things.They're on our letterheads, our ads, even our shirts. The Pride guide is packed with ads that have those symbols, so's the PGN.

But have you noticed that those symbols are often in mainstream ads too? Are all the companies that sport these triangles and rainbows trying to tell us something or have they just made a tragic design faux pas? After all, when you see a main stream logo, it was undoubtedly created by a trained graphic designer, who probably studied art in college. I went to art school and believe me, 99% of graphic designers know full well what an inverted triangle means.

So let's cruise the local yellow pages (main stream not gay), in search of what at least looks like our symbols and see whether or not it's a community come on.

The very first ad I found with a giant inverted triangle, was in the the Chiropractic Section. I didn't even have to call them, it's the ad for Dr. John Cochran's Family Health Center, they are also advertising on the back of the Pride Guide. That's one for the yes side.

But Crystal Vision Center's signs sport a triangle filled with rainbow colors. At their corporate office in Scranton, one of the head guys asked me if the triangle and the rainbow had some kind of significance to the gay and lesbian population. "Um, yes," I said, "a triangle filled with a rainbow is pretty significant." He asked me if my call was some kind of a joke, he wasn't being mean, he just really didn't have a clue.

Of the three other companies I called who had prominent triangle logos, at least two of them are probably speedily phoning the graphics company who designed them, to demand a quick change. Maybe more of a football shape? That's one for the no column.

"Rainbow Paint-Men" though they may be perfectly nice people, and great painters, definitely did not select that rainbow tag to indicate their deep commitment to diversity. And another company with rainbow as its first name, told me they chose 'Rainbow" because it was what God gave Noah at the end of the flood.

So here's the deal, if you want to support the community by spending your money at gay friendly businesses, you can't rely on just what you read. You have to consider where you read it. After all, if a company takes out an ad in the Pride Guide, or the Gay Men's Chorus program, or the future ad page of VFP, then that company is already making an effort to support the GLBT community, and making an effort to declare their gay friendly support. Those are the companies that deserve your business.

I think I'll call Queen City Airport now.

TRAVELS WITH TRAVIS
By Travis Simmons

I'M COMING OUT

It seemed too hard to say, so I wrote it. I began , 'I hope this doesn't ruin our friendship...' I mailed it, but it kept nagging at me. My best friend should hear it from me, not a letter, so I called her. I told her to sit down for some shocking news. After I told her, she laughed, and said something like, "so what." I should have known my best friend, my cousin Jaime, would understand.

My sister was the one I just couldn't face telling, so I left a note on her pillow. But she was also OK with it. A few years later, my sister moved to Alaska, and I wanted to go too.

It wasn't easy telling my mom that I wanted to leave home at sixteen and go to Alaska. But she told me if I wanted to go, she would rather have me leave with her best wishes, than to leave angry at her.

Part of the reason I left, was the fear that my mom would reject me when she found out I was gay. And also, I wanted out of that town. My high school didn't have any minorities and they liked that just fine. I was harassed every day, most of my friends dropped me as soon as they heard the rumor I was gay. If I had stayed there, I wonder whether I would still be alive. But that's another column.

My first conversation with a gay person was in Alaska. One night, sitting in the small two bedroom apartment that four people shared, my cousin called. She was concerned about hate crimes. She said sometimes colleges had support groups for gays and lesbians. So I looked up the Anchorage College number and called. There was a group called The Family. I ended up talking to a guy named David, who was really kind, sweet, and caring. He made me feel less alone, I may have fallen in love with him if I'd stayed there. When I got the news from my sister, that our grandmother was very ill, and we were going to go to her, I was torn. But one cold Alaska night we packed our stuff, and moved to Bethlehem.

I was glad I got to see my grandmother, she died four months after we got here. Six months later, our grandfather also died. It was between those times, I came out to my mother. In February, I told my mom during a phone conversation, that I couldn't even afford a Valentines Day card. "For who?" she immediately asked. I hesitated, then I just told her the truth, that I was gay. She responded, "tell me something I don't know!" She had pretty much guessed, but was waiting for me to confirm it. I told her how I was discriminated against at Borders Books, and she was astounded.. but mostly that I let my name be in a paper that a lot of people would see.

She told me she wanted to meet my boyfriend, though she didn't know how comfortable she would be if we kissed or held hands. I'll give her that, since I hadn't even thought she'd be able to handle the gay thing. She told my dad, he took it well. Surprisingly, he was quite upset about what Borders had done.*

My mom told me to be careful about safe sex, she did not want me to die before she did. I informed her safe sex works the same for gays as it does straights, and the only people I hang with, are OK with it.

Now I'm out as out can be, though you wouldn't know it looking at me. At work, I make sure they all know. I hate it when I feel like I'm leading girls on.

I have a new boyfriend andmany other friends too. My sister is on her way back to Alaska. I'm staying here on my own.

Til next time, Travis.

* The local Borders Books had refused to sell "gay" magazines to people under 18. As it turned out, this was not Borders Corporate Policy. When VFP contacted Borders as a result of Travis's concern, Borders graciously dealt positively with the problem, changed the local policy, and apologized to Travis.

POP QUIZ

1. At the Cannes Film Festival, who said to Joan Rivers, "I knewI was going to be big in films, ever since I was 6 and appeared on the Howdy Doody Show?"
A. Joel Grey B. John Waters
C. Nathan Lane D. Harvey Fierstein

2. What knighted openly gay actor died May 2 at the age of 96? Sir ____
A. John Gielgud B. Lawerence Olivier
C. Osis Deliver D. Ian McKellen

3. What is the only European city that has a monument to gay men and lesbians?
A.Paris B. Berlin C.Amsterdam D. Rome

4. In the movie Torch Song Trilogy, Arnold's drag queen name was:
A. Virginia Hamm. B. Amanda Peck.
C. Bertha Vanation. D. Dusty Bibles.

5. Which 'Golden Girl' had a gay brother?
A. Rose B. Dorothy C. Sophia D. Blanche

6. Which 'Golden Girl' had a transgender brother?
A. Rose B. Dorothy C. Sophia D. Blanche

7. What year was the Names Project Quilt first displayed in its entirety in D.C.?
A. 1985 B. 1987 C. 1992 D. 1995

8. Name the cat that appeared in the out-takes of Steve Libby's documentary.
A. Dis B. Felix C. Larry D. Zebu

So you think you're so smart? Get two friends andregister for the VFP Quiz Bowl (see page 1). Come on, I double dog dare ya...or are ya chicken.

1.B 2.A 3.C 4.A 5.D 6.B 7.B 8.D

TO GET VALLEY FREE PRESS MAILED TO YOUR HOME EVERY MONTH, BECOME A MEMBER OF PA-GALA.

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RAINBOW BOWLING LEAGUE

A bowling league for G/L/B/T people is forming in the Lehigh Valley! Teams of three persons each will compete with one another on a weekly basis from September to May. This is a great opportunity to meet people and have fun. If you are interested in being on a team, or have a team of three, call Scott at 610-691-8303. There will be a organizational meeting in late July/early August to formalize teams, playing day/time, and officers. Previous experience bowling is NOT necessary, just a desire to have fun.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were legally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion,gender, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, handicap or disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

GLASS at Lehigh University

Safe-Space at Lehigh University

PFLAG of Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

GLB Student Union at NCC

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Lucent

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere-Cedar Crest

6th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

SAGE at Muhlenberg

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Service Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity-Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theater

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE

"If you dream of a world in which you can put your partner's picture on your desk, then put his picture on your desk and you will live in such a world. And if you dream of a world in which you can walk down the street holding your partner's hand, then hold her hand and you will live in such a world. If you dream of a world in which there are more openly gay elected officials, then run for office and you will live in such a world. And if you dream of a world in which you can take your partner to the office party, even if your office is the U.S. House of Representatives, then take her to the party. I do, and now I live in such a world. Remember, there are two things that keep us oppressed: them and us. We are half of the equation. There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it's now OK to express ourselves publicly. We must make that day ourselves, by speaking out publicly -- first in small numbers, then in greater numbers, until it's simply the way things are and no one thinks twice. Never doubt that we will create this world, because, my friends, we are fortunate to live in a democracy, and in a democracy, we decide what's possible."

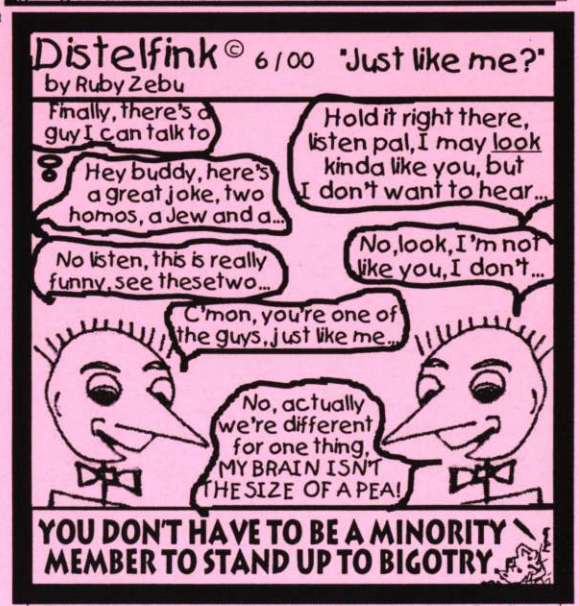
Lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., speaking from the stage of the Millennium March on Washington.

THANKS

PA-GALA and the Valley Free Press thank the Stonewall, Jimmy Black, Jerry Schmidt, Maxi Carter, Sharon Sharalike, and Little Debbie, for their generous efforts at the Game Show fund raiser last Tuesday night! Thanks Guys!!!!!!!

BOY SCOUTS LOSE CT FUNDING

In a unanimous decision, the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities ruled that because of the Boy Scouts of America's anti-gay policy, inclusion of the organization in the State Employee Campaign for charitable giving violates state law.



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AS A COURTESY TO BUSINESSES WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US, THE VALLEY FREE PRESS IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE THIS LISTING OF GLBT-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES.

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and Sex Therapy
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PK Consulting Assoc
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1013 Brookside Rd Box 3624
Allentown, PA 18106
610-821-2955

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Allentown, PA 18106
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Allentown, 18102
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Custody -Wills
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To list your business in future issues of VFP, see reverse.